

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3209

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, VS, CB

SUBJECT: CODEL BRIEFINGS ON ICCS

REF: SAIGON 2313

1. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF EXPOSURES OF CODEL BARTLETT/MCCLOSKEY AND CODEL FLYNT TO ICCS SUPPLEMENTS GENERAL REVIEW IN PARA 4 REFTEL.

2. AT HIS REQUEST, ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR SENATOR BARTLETT TO CALL ON INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR SAMIL AT 10:30 HOURS ON FEBRUARY 28 AND AT 11:00 HOURS ON THE HUNGARIAN CHARGE, MR GORGACS, WHO WAS ICCS CHAIRMAN OF THE MONTH. AT ABOUT 0900 HOURS REPRESENTATIVE ABZUG REQUESTED THE EMBASSY TO ARRANGE FOR HER TO SEE ICCS REPRESENTATIVES AND SHE WAS INFORMED THAT THE EMBASSY WAS ARRANGING TO HAVE HER JOIN SENATOR BARTLETT. HOWEVER, AT ABOUT 09:15 HOURS REPRESENTATIVE ABZUG DECIDED TO PROCEED ON HER OWN WHICH SHE DID ACCOMPANIED BY REPRESENTATIVES FRASER AND FENWICK AS WELL AS MADAME NGO BA THAN AND FATHER CHAN TIN FOLLOWED BY A CONSIDERABLE PRESS CONTINGENT INCLUDING A LARGE NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHERS. AT ABOUT 9:50 THEIR CORTEGE ARRIVED AT THE GATE OF THE ICCS HEADQUARTERS WITHOUT ANY GVN OR EMBASSY ESCORT. THE GVN POLICE, WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF THE ICCS COMPOUND, HELD THE CORTEGE UP FOR APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN MINUTES WHILE THEY SOUGHT PERMISSION FROM THEIR HEADQUARTERS TO ADMIT THE GROUP. PERMISSION WAS OBTAINED AND THEY WERE ADMITTED TO THE ARVN LIAISON OFFICE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE BUILDING. THEREUPON REPRESENTATIVE ABZUG MADE IT PLAIN
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THAT THEIR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS TO PRESENT A PETITION FROM

MADAME NGO BA THAN TO A SENIOR OFFICER OF THE COMMISSION. EMBOFF TRANSMITTED THIS REQUEST SEPARATELY TO BOTH FORGACS AND SAMIL, BUT EACH INDICATED THEY WOULD NOT RECEIVE PETITION, SAMIL NOTING HE WAS NOT FEBRUARY CHAIRMAN.

3. THE ABZUG PARTY THEREUPON AGREED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SENATOR BARTLETT'S APPOINTMENTS. THE SENATOR HIMSELF BEING DELAYED, EMBOFF ESCORTED THREE REPRESENTATIVES AND THEIR STAFFER TO SAMIL'S OFFICE, WHERE THE LATTER COURTEOUSLY BRIEFED THEM ON THE REASONS FOR THE INACTIVITY OF THE COMMISSION AND ANSWERED SERIES OF QUESTIONS BY REPRESENTATIVE ABZUG. PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO FORGACS' OFFICE, BUT WERE SHUNTED OFF TO WAITING ROOM WHILE HUNGARIANS DECIDED WHETHER TO ACCEPT PETITION. AFTER WAITING TEN MINUTES, CONGRESSIONAL PARTY DECIDED TO LEAVE; HOWEVER, AS THEY WERE LEAVING, HUNGARIANS STATED THAT THEIR CHARGE HAD AUTHORIZED HIS STAFF AIDE TO ACCEPT THE PETITION. ACCORDINGLY, THE LATTER CAME DOWNSTAIRS TO THE ARVN LIAISON OFFICE WHERE HE RECEIVED THE PETITION FROM MADAME NGO BA THAN. THIS DEVELOPMENT PLEASED REPRESENTATIVE ABZUG AND HER PARTY LEFT AT 11:15.

4. SENATOR BARTLETT ARRIVED AT 11:20 AND WAS PROMPTLY RECEIVED BY HUNGARIAN CHARGE WHO GAVE HIM THE USUAL COMMUNIST LINE, INCLUDING FALSEHOODS ABOUT THE GVN TREATMENT OF THE DRV AND "PRG" DELEGATIONS WHICH THE SENATOR IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED AS FALSE. EMBOFF NEXT TOOK THE SENATOR TO CALL ON IRANIAN DELEGATION CHARGE KHAZENI, WHO GAVE HIM A STRAIGHTFORWARD BRIEFING FOR HALF AN HOUR. ON LEAVING ICCS, SENATOR ASKED EMBOFF FOR A FURTHER EMBASSY BRIEFING ON CEASE-FIRE AND ICCS AFFAIRS. THIS WAS GIVEN TO HIM AT LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE OF MINPOL ON SUNDAY, MARCH 2 AND ALL HIS REMAINING QUESTIONS ANSWERED, PARTICULARLY ON STATUS OF DEPLOYMENT AND PROBLEM OF INVESTIGATIONS.

5. MEANWHILE, CODEL FLYNT HAD ASKED FOR FACT SHEET ON COSTS OF ICCS TO US GOVERNMENT. COPIES OF THIS FACT SHEET PREPARED BY EMBASSY WERE GIVEN TO REPRESENTATIVES FLYNT, CHAPPEL AND MCCLOSKEY. ADDITIONAL COPY WAS GIVEN TO SENATOR BARTLETT. COPY ALSO POUCHED TO EA/VN.

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